

Speaker: 0

Hi guys. I'm Courtney.

Speaker: 5

And I'm Lisa. And welcome to the next chapter in the Book of the Dead.

Speaker: 0

Hi guys. Welcome to the next chapter. Guess who's back?

Speaker: 5

It's me.

Speaker: 0

A lot of people wished you feel good vibes.

Speaker: 5

Well, that's so sweet. Thank you.

Speaker: 0

Me too. I feel better. I probably sound a lot better, although someone said they liked the raspy voice and I appreciate that. So, but Lisa is back. She's feeling better.

Speaker: 5

Yes, I am.

Speaker: 0

And we are gonna jump right into it. Although I know you guys liked Jerry. Jerry appreciates the good comments. Since you're back, we're gonna jump to a case that I know you've never heard of, because I've never heard of it.

Speaker: 5

Okay. Well, are you gonna tell me something?

Speaker: 0

Actually, before we jump in really, really quick, the Book of the Dead is now a brand ambassador with Own Your Stigma, which is a mental health advocacy apparel shop. Because you guys know I probably mentioned my melting brain almost every episode. And you know, big advocate for mental health. So if you guys are interested, we have a coupon code for you. It's b o t d 15 for 15 % off your order, and we'll put the link to their shop down below, and it's on our social media and our link tree. Just wanted to put that out there in case you guys are interested. But now we're gonna jump in. According to an article for True Crime Edition in 1979, a Swedish shipping company called Ridi Am Slate commissioned the building of a ferry ship that would go on to be called the Ms. Viking Sally. Now, this ship would eventually come to be named the Ms. Estonia and was state-of-the-art for its time with 10 decks and all sorts of amenities and restaurants, bars, pools of sauna, nightclub, and a movie theater like it, it a ferry had all of this, not a cruise liner, it was by all accounts a beautiful luxury ferry vessel. However, this ship was what I would consider one of the most cursed ships out there before anyone turns off this episode. This is not a ghost story,

Speaker: 5

sounds like one, i

Speaker: 0

it's not in eight years. Again, according to True Crime edition, this vessel saw 855 deaths, two of which were murders. And I'm gonna tell you the story of one of them.

Speaker: 5

Well, that is not a ship that I would want or a vessel that I would wanna be on.

Speaker: 0

Yeah, that's, that's, that's accurate. But this story that I'm going to tell you is the story of the murder of Klaus Shekel. And I do wanna preface this by saying there's, there's not a lot of sources out there for this in English, and there's not a lot even in Finnish. But the ones I did find in Finn, I was able to roughly translate. So according to medium.com, Klaus Shekel was 20 years old and his girlfriend of six months, Bettina was 22. They were from West Germany and were backpacking across the Nordic countries with Klaus's friend of five years, Thomas Schmidt. And they started their journey on July 23rd, 1987 in Stuttgart, before making their way through Denmark and Sweden, where they stayed in Stockholm for a few days. Now, I will say there's really no information on who Klaus and Bettina and Thomas were as people. I really, unfortunately don't know much about them. They were really into traveling, you know, it was this big deal. Klaus and Bettina only knew each other for six months, but they were like, yes, you know, we are, we're together. Let's plan our future together. Really, really cute. They stay in Stockholm for a few days, and their next stop was to be Turku Finland's for the Russ Rock Music Festival, and they would be traveling there via the Ms Viking Sally. Now, the only snag in their trip came from the fact that while they had saved up money for this trip, they only had enough money to get them onto the ship. They didn't actually have the funds to book a cabin for their overnight stay on this parity, which to be fair was fine. They would just sle

ep out on the deck under the stars, you know, which to be fair was fine with them. It seems like a lot of people on the ferry that night either didn't have the money to book a cabin, or they didn't feel it was worth it to spend the money on like a private sleeping quarters. So they were just sleeping out on the decks, you know, wherever they found a place to crash.

Speaker: 5

Sounds like a giant slum slumber party.

Speaker: 0

Yeah, it, it really does. It sounds like a giant slumber party or a giant floating camping trip. So on July 27th at 10:00

PM they board the ship. Now, according to an article translated from a book called Police Secret two, which I'm probably, I completely butchered that I'm sure, but it translates to police stories by all accounts, from postcards and messages written to family and friends. The trip up until this point had gone well. The evening went as one would expect a night on a ferry to go. Klaus and Bettina picked up some supplies and souvenirs, and then they wandered around the ship chatting with the others on board. Now, both Bettina and Klaus were reportedly very outgoing and would talk to anybody, but Thomas was more standoffish, so he wasn't really one for chatting with strangers. Now, while they wandered around, they scoped out areas where they would sleep for the night, and one of the people that they spoke to was a man who was named by the media as Patrick Haley. I will say that that's just an alias. The media never released his name publicly, and he was an English engineer on his way to Helsinki to be reunited with his girlfriend Maya. They also met a German businessman named Tao and his partner Sari. And the final group of people mentioned that they met were three young men from KangaSala named Sammi Pente and Vallee, who had just lost all their money on alcohol and what I would assume to be gambling or maybe gentleman's clubs in Stockholm. Looks like these three guys were like out to party. In addition, there were 1400 or so other people on board from families and veterans, a couple of different like scouting troops and tourists, as well as 200 members of the ship's crew. Now, Klaus and Bettina ended up finding a spot to sleep on deck nine, which was the top deck near the helicopter pad. And Thomas settled on the deck one floor below them. The spot they found was dimly lit. Reportedly one of the lights was broken, but it was protected from the winds by a plexiglass shield and had offered them a beautiful view of the sunrise, which I'm sure they wanted to see the next morning. You know, the sunrise over the ocean or the sea, you know, I'm sure was a big draw for sleeping out on the top deck before going to sleep. They spoke with Tao and he and Klaus hit it off. Tao was in the business of selling car parts, and Klaus was reportedly studying automotive technology and university. So Tao offered to show him the car parts he was delivering to Turku, but the car deck was locked up for the night. So the two of them apparently made plans to look at them in the morning, and they exchanged information like they were really excited. It was like two guys geeking out over cars together.

Speaker: 5

Okay?

Speaker: 0

Then they encountered Patrick and Sammy Pente and Valle. And since the three men were short on money, Patrick purchased beer and food and they had a good time drinking outside one of the restaurants on the ship. So it's like the party just kind of continued on, and supposedly they were boisterous enough that several people remembered seeing them. And at around 1:00

AM Klaus and Bettina headed up to the top deck to go to bed with Thomas again sleeping one deck below. According to a Finn newspaper report, Thomas wanted to give them privacy because, you know, it was this couple, you know, they're in the honeymoon phase. He's like, you, you guys do your own thing. I'll sleep down here, it's fine. And he was also in charge of keeping an eye on some of their valuables. It looks like he was just kind of like the responsible one. He's like, I'm gonna take all of our stuff. I'm gonna keep an eye on it. You guys do what you want to do. Okay? Now, the three men from kangasala, according to that excerpt from that police stories book I mentioned, reported seeing Klaus and Bettina settling into sleeping bags on the top deck. Now no one really knows what happened next in the coming hours. What is known was that between three and 4:00

AM the restaurants and bars finally closed for the night, A really late last call. The remaining passengers who were awake for last call made their way to their cabins to sleep, and the crew retired to their rooms and the security guard on duty, Brian Mill Velten, was preparing to hand over duty to the next person coming on shift. Among the few people that were still wandering around were three Danish scouts who wandered around and ended up on the top deck by the helicopter pad at about 3

45, according to that book. So almost three hours have gone by since Klaus and Bettina went to bed.

Speaker: 5

Okay, I'm still waiting for the other shoe, you know, for the shoe to drop here.

Speaker: 0

They get up to the top deck, and these three scouts, again, they are unnamed. A lot of people were unnamed, and at first it looked like nobody was around. But then they noticed two people by the ship's, air bands, who looked like they were either very drunk or on drugs as they kept leaning against the deck to stand and then collapsing back onto the floor. Now, the three Scouts approach to try and help, when they saw that the people there were a man and a woman, and their faces were covered with blood.

Speaker: 5

Okay, that, that's no bueno, but go, go ahead.

Speaker: 0

According to medium.com, around the same time, another person came onto the top deck. This was another scout from a different troop, and this was 18 year olds, Thomas

Nielsen. Now, he had seen Klaus and Bettina earlier that evening on the top deck. When he came back up the second time, he saw Klaus and Bettina covered in blood surrounded by the others. According to medium, he said in an interview quote, I was walking on the helicopter deck and suddenly saw three other boys by the sleeping bags. At the same time, I noticed that something was crooked. When I got closer, I noticed that there was blood everywhere, and the young people lying in the sleeping bags were covered in blood. The boy tried to get up by then, he was outside the sleeping bag, but he couldn't get up. The girl was inside the sleeping bag and tried to say something next to them were empty in full beer bottles. Now, Thomas gave this interview to Sierra Magazine, but I couldn't find the actual interview. So I don't know what other things he may have said in relation to this case. This was all I could find on medium. He reportedly, according to the Atlas Obscura attempted first aid while the ship's security was called for. And within 10 minutes, security arrived with a nurse and the captain. But it was pretty clear immediately that the medical services on the ship were not equipped to deal with the severity of Klaus and Bettina's injuries. Thomas also said the face had not been hit or kicked, and in my opinion, the abuser had not used the knife either. Their faces were like slush as if they had been beaten with something like a hammer. No wounds were visible on their bodies. So according to Thomas, they were hit repeatedly in the face and head.

Speaker: 5

With some sort of object.

Speaker: 0

Yes. He, according to Thomas, he believed it was like a hammer. He, he said it, he didn't see any like stab wounds.

Speaker: 5

Maybe he couldn't see any stab wounds because they were covered in blood.

Speaker: 0

Maybe. But,

Speaker: 5

Okay, so these two individuals, these, these, this couple was I'll say beaten with an object and left in their sleeping bags covered in blood.

Speaker: 0

Yes.

Speaker: 5

And these boy scouts stumbled upon them. Okay.

Speaker: 0

According to medium, they actually believed that Betina was in far more dire need of medical attention than Klause

Speaker: 5

But this vessel, this ferry has all of these things, but really no great medical,

Speaker: 0

No, no, no, no, no, no. It's not that they didn't have good, I mean, I don't know what their capacity for medical care was, but they were not equipped to deal with attempted murder.

Speaker: 5

I get that, but I'm just thinking that, I don't know, maybe there, there, there could have been more medical personnel to, I mean, you don't expect this to happen on a ferry.

Speaker: 0

Yeah. And this was in the area of Finland where their crime rate is very, very low for, for something like this. So I'm sure they weren't, but I, I get what you're saying. You would for, for all the money that was invested in the amenities, one would like to think that there was at least enough medical equipment to keep them stable.

Speaker: 5

Right. Medical personnel, medical, you know, I'm, there's, look, I'm not, I'm not beaten up on the ferry or anything like that. It's just, I would think with, again, with, as you said, all of the money that they spent equipping this, this ferry with all sorts of amenities that, that they would've had more medical personnel. Again, you're not thinking some event like this is going to happen. It's a terrible word event, but it, that's really what it is. The, you don't expect this to happen,

Speaker: 0

But about 45 minutes had elapsed between them being found and the helicopter and the police being called for. And I'm sure that's because A was a big ship, and B I'm sure the nurse and the ship's captain and the security guard didn't really realize the extent of what had happened, obviously.

Speaker: 5

Right. But if you're telling me that this ship was basically filled with a lot of passengers and a lot of passengers were sleeping on the different decks under the stores, I mean, they weren't alone on this deck.

Speaker: 0

Well, it seems like they might have been. I, I don't know for sure, but it seems like at least on the top deck, they may have been alone. Because really the only thing up there was the helicopter pad.

Speaker: 5

And nobody heard anything, nobody heard.

Speaker: 0

Well, I'm gonna get to that

Speaker: 5

Insert hard eye roll here. You're not getting there fast enough. Okay.

Speaker: 0

Now, the finished Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter immediately to transport Patina and Klaus to Turka University Hospital. Now, this helicopter arrived and transported them, arriving at the hospital at 5:48

AM But it was Klaus by then who was thought to be more stable as I thought that had died by the time they got to the hospital, due to the extent of his injuries, which had pierced his skull into his brain.

Speaker: 5

Excuse me.

Speaker: 0

They thought Klaus was, they say because he was walking, they thought, okay, you're walking, you're, you're more stable than Bettina. But he was not, and he died. But by the time he arrived at the hospital,

Speaker: 5

Because he had a what, to his head,

Speaker: 5

He had such a severe head injury, whatever had hit his skull, had pierced through it into his brain .

Speaker: 5

Okay. This is a vicious attack.

Speaker: 5

Yeah. This was not like a fight that got outta hand or something like that where, you know, he was, I guess, punched in the head too many times where he had a severe concussion, like someone whacked him with a hammer on both of them with a hammer probably while they slept.

Speaker: 5

Who would do such a thing?

Speaker: 0

Your guess is as

Speaker: 5

Good as mine. Okay. Obviously a maggot, we all know I'm going to come out with that one. Obviously it was a maggot, but what reason, well, first of all, there's no good reason. Like, let's be real. There's no reason.

Speaker: 0

No, of course. But what reason would this person have thought they had to do it? I, I like, I get what you're saying now, I,

Speaker: 5

I'm horrified.

Speaker: 0

I will say Bettina did survive, her injuries were just as extensive as Klaus's, but she survived

Speaker: 5

How

Speaker: 0



I, I don't know,

Speaker: 5

By the grace of God, I, I know people are out there by the grace of God, that is how she survived to be beaten that severely and to be able to survive that. Yeah.

Speaker: 0

And I will say, according to that chapter in that book, police stories, it did say that she had recovered well, and it was written four years after the fact. So, you know, my hope is she has gone on to live as normal life as possible. Although she did have lifelong injuries. I believe she, she had lost a finger probably defending herself. I don't know the extent of her injuries that was never released. Well,

Speaker: 5

Again, if she was defending herself,

Speaker: 0

She, I will say she, well, I, I was just gonna say she has no memory of that day. She woke up.

Speaker: 5

No, I'm not a I'm not, no,

Speaker: 0

I thinking that she would No, no, no, I understand that. I'm just saying like, if anyone's like, maybe she saw the, she literally has no idea what happened that day.

Speaker: 5

But if she was, all I'm thinking is if she was able to at least put her hand up to, or her hands up to defend herself to prevent more of an attack, I would think she would be screaming. And I go back to this is a vessel filled with people.

Speaker: 0

Oh, absolutely.

Speaker: 5

And nobody heard this

Speaker: 0

Ab I, I guess not. I guess nobody heard. But I, I understand. I understand where you're coming from. Like she, if she was screaming, which obviously she was probably awake if she had put her hands up,

Speaker: 5

That's, yeah, that's where I was going with that.

Speaker: 0

Unless, you know, the first blow, I guess maybe possibly stunned her where she wouldn't have screamed.

Speaker: 5

Maybe,

Speaker: 0

Maybe I don't, I don't, I don't know. Head injuries are complicated enough when they're minor now at six 30 in the morning, four detectives arrived via the same helicopter aboard the Viking Sally. Now, according to medium, the attack could have occurred in either Oland's or Finland based on where the Viking Sally was sailing that night. So we're talking like jurisdictionally. But because Oland is a very small archipelago off the coast of Finland with a very small population, like I think currently they have only about 30,000 residents, which is nothing, they would not have the investigative resources necessary to investigate Klaus's murder. So the Turkey police took over the jurisdiction according to true crime edition. The top deck was immediately secured. And it had actually been partially secured already by Ramo, the security guard who was seasoned in this business. So he had a really good idea of police protocol, and he had already started gathering information from witnesses by the time the police arrived. So, I mean, thank God for him, because he was like, no one touch anything, like, I'm gonna secure this. The officers that arrived also called for police to meet them at the port where the ship was going to dock, so that they can ensure that no one got off the ship right away. Immediately, the investigation was started, and passengers are being interviewed by the time the ship docked in Turkey at 8:00 AM now, because no one had an idea of a suspect, the ship was secured before passengers could leave. And they were escorted one by one off the Viking Sally, from one exit. All others had been blocked so that everyone was gathered in the same place.

Speaker: 5

Okay?

Speaker: 0

In addition, police patrolled the ship in boats to ensure that nothing like evidence was thrown overboard.

Speaker: 5

Okay? They're doing a fine job.

Speaker: 0

Police before the ship had arrived at the port, had acquired three cameras specifically to film all passengers as they left. One was on younger men in specific, and the others were used to look for anyone acting suspiciously. However, all elderly persons as well as families were told to leave and weren't documented in the investigation, most likely because of just the sheer number of possible suspects. So I'm sure that these, you know, the elderly people and the families were let off because they were kind of weeding out, all right, you're, you know, you're in your seventies. You, you did not have the capacity to wield a weapon multiple times. You know, you can go, you know, you have really small children, the likelihood of you leaving them to go murder someone is really low. You can go kind of thing. Which, like, I get 1400 people, like you can't reasonably go through them all in a timely manner. Now, Thomas

Schmidt was one of the 20 people that police interrogated extensively, but he was eventually released after police concluded he had nothing to do with the attack. Thomas, according to Medium, said quote, when the police came to wake me up, I had no idea what happened. We were sitting up on the deck, but the air was cold, and I went inside to look for a place to sleep. After half an hour, I woke up to Klaus and Bettina coming to get their sleeping bags. They were in a great mood and said they had met a nice fin. Then they faded away. It was around midnight then, so he hadn't seen them, you know, they went to bed at once. So it had been at least an hour from when he had last seen them. And they were fine, you know, people could attest to that. Now, the other person that was in immediate focus was Patrick

Haley, who was found in a sleeping bag covered in blood. Now, he told police that he had gotten a nosebleed in the middle of the night, and the blood was his own. So the blood was tested forensically, and it was confirmed that he was telling the truth. The blood was his own. So he was let go. Now, the scouts were also interrogated by police, but they were also ultimately released. So pretty much right off the bat, police were struggling with their investigation. Again, there was around 1400 people on the ship that night. There were no witnesses to the attack. And according to police stories, the initial investigation on the ship had to be done quickly, which makes sense since, you know, once the ship made its support, they couldn't just detain 1400 people, okay? To thoroughly investigate the whole ship would've taken at least a week. A majority of the passengers were all based, were based all over the world. So police have had a hard time tracking people down after the fact. And delays caused by foreign legal formalities have hindered the investigation. In other countries, you know, the first week they're already at a disadvantage because, you know, they have to let people go. They didn't have a cause for holding anyone in specific, or anyone in particular. You know, they, they don't have the resources or the time to search this entire ship, especially because that ship has to leave port. So it's like they're, they're kind of stuck because their crime scene is literally sailing away. Now, in August, two fishermen and that, it was, it was about a week later, two fishermen found a bag of clothes that had washed up on the shore of Lila Bjorn Home Islands. This bag sat on a dock for like a year because these fishermen found and went, oh, someone dro

pped their bag in here in the water. So they left it on the dock. And then it was found again a year later, like, oh, wait, maybe we should have someone look into this. it's weird. Based on what I could understand from translations, that's what happened.

Speaker: 5

Okay?

Speaker: 0

Now, inside the bag, which from my understanding was a trash bag. Well, inside was a pair of size 41 shoes, light-colored shorts, a red sweater, and some work gloves, which had the initials HK written on them. Now, these clothes were confirmed to be finished made, and based on the direction of the wind at the time it was found, it's believed that these clothes could have been thrown off of the Viking Sally. However, it's unknown who the clothes belonged to, and it has never been confirmed, obviously, whether or not they came from someone aboard the Viking, Sally,

Speaker: 5

did these have blood on them?

Speaker: 0

Not to my knowledge, but they were floating around in, in the water for like a week, at least a week, if not longer, before they were found. So, who knows, for years, over a thousand people were interrogated or interviewed, and over 250 samples have been sent the National Bureau of Investigation for analysis with investigative agencies in nine countries working on the case tracking down, you know, different people that may or may not have been close to the deck when this occurred. Apparently the case report is well over 2000 pages, like they have been working this. The other issue is that there is no clear motive for the murder of Klaus and the attempted murder of Bettina. Now, tragically on September 27th, 1994, the ship spiking Sally, which had been renamed to the Ms. Estonia, as I said, sailed through treacherous waters and sank taking with it 852 people. It also took with it any potential evidence that may have been left on board,

Speaker: 5

Which after all that time,

Speaker: 0

After 10 years, yeah, the likelihood is slim to none. But you never know. There could have been something more important, would be the 852 people that died.

Speaker: 5

No, absolutely. I this, you're right, this ship or this vessel was cursed

Speaker: 0

For years after the fact, due to a lack of witnesses. Evidence in the entire vessel now gone. The murder of Klaus unsolved. However, in 2019, according to medium, the police announced that they had a suspect who was male and was believed to have not known either Klaus or Bettina prior to the murders. Now, the name of this man had not been released until September of 2020 when a 51 year old Danish man by the name of Herman Hemley was indicted on charges of murder and attempted murder. I'm sure you're asking me who's Herman Hemley.

Speaker: 5

Well, I figured no matter what I ask, you always tell me you're getting to it. So I figured I'd just wait.

Speaker: 0

Well, I, I did in fact mention Herman Hemley, not by that name. See, Herman Henley went by a very different name in 1987. He went by his birth name. His birth name was Thomas

Nielsen. Thomas

Nielsen, as I said, was the one that administered first aid, said, oh, it seems like they got hit with a hammer, yada, yada. Let me insert myself into the investigation a little bit. Do some interviews. The scout,

Speaker: 5

So he wanted, because there was no reason to do this, none whatsoever. So he was to, I'll say, get his 15 minutes of fame.

Speaker: 0

Oh, don't, don't jump the gun. I'm not there yet. Now, following the murder of Klaus and the attempted murder of Bettina, Herman spent his life in and out of jail for various charges like robbery threats and weapons charges, and, you know, just all sorts of things he was getting in trouble for. It's also worth mentioning that this is alleged 'cause there's no proof, because the person that would have the, the other person in this situation has since passed away. But allegedly, his scoutmaster saw Thomas coming back from the top deck with blood all over his clothes. He said, I just administered first aid on this, this poor couple that, that got attacked. And a scout master said, let me get you new clothes, you poor thing. That's horrific.

Speaker: 5

That's what the scoutmaster says.

Speaker: 0

Well, this was on the, on the ship after the

Speaker: 5

Fact. No, no, I understand that. But I know in this country, you know, I'll say Eagle Scouts, they have all of this knowledge, you know, they've

Speaker: 0

Done, oh no, well,

Speaker: 5

But wait a minute. The scout master, I'll say is the quote unquote expert, because he's teaching these scouts how to do these things. And if Thomas is coming back saying, oh, I just did first aid, I would think that the scout master would've said, wait a minute and run.

Speaker: 0

That's what I would like to think. But again, the scout master has since died. I don't know what he really said. This is just kind of what was mentioned in like one or two sources. Oh, by the way, the scoutmaster, you know, saw him and was like, Thomas, what happened? Oh my God. And he was like, this couple got attacked. I administered first aid. That's why I'm covered in blood. And he's like, let me get you new clothes. That's, that's what it was, maybe said. I don't know.

Speaker: 5

I'm thinking the scoutmaster would probably say, what do you mean? Let, let me see, let me see if I can help. Show me where they are. Let me go offer my assistance.

Speaker: 0

That's what I'm thinking. But you know,

Speaker: 5

So, and he didn't think to mention this to the security guard or the, the anybody, the police.

Speaker: 5

This was after the police were already called and stuff.

Speaker: 5

No, I understand that. But wouldn't you think the scoutmaster would say, Hey, this kid offered help. He was covered in blood and then the police go, Hmm? What do you mean? Oh no,

Speaker: 0

They held him as a hero. You helped, you administered first aid, you helped, you tried. You're 18.

Speaker: 5

No, no,

Speaker: 0

I don't know. That's what happened. Well,

Speaker: 5

You're supposed to have the answers. I have. If you're telling me the story, you're supposed to have the answers.

Speaker: 0

I have most of the answers.

Speaker: 5

Well, not all of the ones that I need to hear.

Speaker: 0

I'm sorry. So Herman, you know, all around Ston doing some good things. I guess he didn't learn much in the scouts, but he would also allegedly use the murder of Klaus as his mean threat and would boast about getting away with murder,

Speaker: 5

Allegedly. You're gonna tell me, allegedly again, I

Speaker: 0

Don't wanna get sued. You'll, you'll see why I say allegedly. So everyone will see why I'm saying allegedly so much.

Speaker: 5

Allegedly. I'm thinking I should be calling shenanigans here. 'cause if he, okay, alright, we'll, we'll play devil's advocate. If this young man offered to help or was administering first aid to the two victims of a vicious attack, maybe he should have been calling for help.

Speaker: 0

He, well, the, the other scouts got help while he was administering first aid, according to one of the finished articles I read while in prison, he had spoken to the leader of the prison choir about Klaus's murder and how upset over it he was. And she told the press that she had initially felt very badly for him experiencing that. You know, like, that's, that's very traumatic. But you know, to experience

Speaker: 5

It such a young age, absolutely.

Speaker: 0

She had said that if she had thought he was responsible, she would've reported it immediately. According to an article for Nord News, the police's initial interest in Herman came in 2016 after he had sent text messages to his ex-wife in relation to the murder. He claimed in those messages to have killed two people. Now, some quotes from these messages, which I got from medium.com are, quote, I am a murderer and I can prove it. But then I would go to prison for a long time, and you're right that I'm evil. I've killed two people, I've been interrogated and they can't do anything about that ship thing. I remember the ship like it was yesterday. Yes, I am a murderer and I can prove it, but then I will go to jail for a long time and I will not go to jail because then you will escape my revenge when, which will come when you least expect it. I couldn't find exact quotes. It was in the media that he did send text messages in this vein to his wife. These particular quotes though are from medium.com. I'm not a hundred percent sure where they got the exact quotes.

Speaker: 5

Okay, so allegedly he sent these text messages to his wife or ex-wife threatening her with bodily harm. At least that's what I'm getting from what you just said. I, I'm,

Speaker: 0

Yes, it was reported that she was afraid of him. Well,

Speaker: 5

If somebody's sending you text messages like that, I'd be a little frightened.

Speaker: 0

No, absolutely. I'm saying to like, kind of just substantiate what you were saying. Yes, she was she was afraid of him.

Speaker: 5



Okay, so, so on the big leap that I'm taking here, he has sent these text messages threatening bodily harm to her.

Speaker: 0

Now, as a result of these messages, how the police found out about them, I really couldn't tell you. It's possible his ex-wife had gone to the police and said, my psycho ex-husband confessed to murder in its ex message.

Speaker: 5

Or he's threatening

Speaker: 0

Or, and or, and he's threatening to hurt me. He's threatening to hurt me. Oh, by the way, he also confessed to this in a textmessage or he said this, I don't know, it's probable, I have no idea though. But the police found out about these textmessages and as a result visited him in 2016. Now, in 2016, the Danish prison he was incarcerated in was visited by police constables Mika Pier and Serpa Sarin. Now, on the first visit, Herman allegedly implied he was responsible for Klaus's murder. And the second time he alleged that he could have done it. By the third visit he had allegedly confessed to PC Pere in the courtyard without legal representation and without the confession being recorded. We all know that that in and of itself is an issue. He was alleged to have claimed to have revealed specific details about the murder. And he also allegedly claimed to have used a slag hammer to attack Klaus and Betina. I had no idea what a slag hammer was. So I looked it up. According to Tractor Supply, if y'all are curious, you can buy tools there. A slag hammer is a chipping hammer with a chisel on one side and a point on the other used to clear welding debris. So it's a welding tool and the thing I can most closely compare it to would be a pickaxe, like one end is blunt. The other is pointed. Okay? But it's very heavy considering you're banging it on something you've been welding on. I don't know where one would find that on a ship. Maybe someone was a welder and brought it with them. I don't know. Either way he was alleged to have said that he used this. And he is also alleged to have said he threw the hammer overboard immediately after the attack, which would make sense as to why police never found a murder weapon during the course of their investigation. Now, according to medium.com, his motive was supposedly very vague, but it was suggested the motive was maybe robbery and that his mental state had been impaired at the time of the attack. He was angry about, you know, I guess not having been given money while he was traveling from like his family or something. I don't know. It's, it was very vague because he never really said if he was responsible, never really said why he would have killed them. It was all kind of like, oh, well maybe, oh, well I wasn't in my right mind. Maybe I like, you know, very vague. Or then he allegedly reveled in playing the hero by administering first aid and inserting himself into the investigation. As we talked about this is all stuff he allegedly told the police like, I wanted to be the hero, you know, everyone was looking at me like, you tried to save them, you know, you're a hero kind of thing. Which, you know, we've heard about killers and starting themselves into investigations or you have those, I don't know what it's called, but like you'll, you'll have like a, a crooked firefighter set fire so he can go in and save the people in the house that he has set fire. Like, you know what I mean? So kind of like that kind of thing. Either way the police repo

rtedly said that Herman said that he would like to tell Bettina that she no longer had to be afraid. Hesaid that quote, the woman can be told that the police talked to the right man today. Police als o said, he said that he daredto say this because the police would never be able to prove him as the perpetrator. He didn't want to directly admit that he killed cla shekel and that he tried to kill Betti na taxis because he considered that his statement was n now was enough totell who the perpetrato r was to rough translation. But basically he's saying, oh, I'm talking now because you guys reall ydon't have any proof. The police were not ignorant to the fact that the lack of Herman's legal representation at the time ofhis alleged confession was a problem. And in 2019 they attempted to interview him again, but Herman refused. Theyarrested him anyway, I get why, but it wasn't really a smart thing to do because you can't just accuse someone of murderwithout any real proof. According to B B C, in May of 2021, Herman goes to trial with the prosecution moving for lifeimprisonment. But the prosecution had a lot of problems with their case. One being that Harmon's ex-wife refused totestify and she was one of the key witnesses. I totally understand why she refused to testify.

Speaker: 5

Yeah, because if he's not convicted, he's coming after her or okay, she's probably thinking that if he was not convicted andsent to prison for the rest of his life, that he would come after her for testifying against him. That's what I'm thinking. Yeah.

Speaker: 0

The other problem was that the defense was arguing that the comments made to his ex-wife were not indicative of guilt. They also were calling for the alleged confession to be thrown out with the judge ruling that the lack of legalrepresentation at the time of this supposed confession was inadmissible. Not surprised. You can't give a confessionwithout legal representation, without recording it, without doing any of the sort. I like, I get that.

Speaker: 5

Well, you can. You

Speaker: 0

Can, but

Speaker: 5

If you, if you refuse,

Speaker: 0

If you refuse legal counsel,

Speaker: 5

Well he never,

Speaker: 0

And they have proof of that

Speaker: 5

From what you said to me, I do not believe that he asked for legal representation.

Speaker: 0

I'm sure he did not. But again, they could not prove either way that he did or did not refuse to be represented in any way. So the judge was like, you can't use it, which sucks. But that is in fact the justice system and it seems, I mean that's the justice system in America, but it seems like that is very much the justice system in Finland as well. Which again makes sense. You, you have to give someone the opportunity to be represented, which if they want it, if they want it, if they refuse, it's another thing. But you need proof that they refuse. They believe, at least in America, you have to sign something saying that you're waiving your right to legal representation. I'm sure they have something, I believe so like that in Finland, like some sort of documented proof. Either way the prosecution tried to argue that he had knowledge of the murder weapon, but the judge said basically the murder weapon was never found. So you can't say he had details of the crime that the police never released because no one knows what the murder weapon is. Seems a little loophole to me, but like I get it. Unfortunately, I understand that because he could have said the murder weapon was a baseball bat, you know what I mean? And they would have no proof whether or not that was true because,

Speaker: 5

So basically they have a vessel that no one got off of. So the person that attacked or persons that attacked these two individuals was for all intents and purposes captive on this vessel because you know, there was no, oh, let me jump off. Yeah. And a murderer gets to go free.

Speaker: 0

Yeah. Because of these reasons. In June of 2021, Herman was acquitted on the basis that the prosecution had quote, failed to prove that the defendant had the motive and was the only person on board the ship who had the opportunity to commit the crime. I'm sure they did fail to prove that because they didn't really have any evidence to prove specifically that he met that criteria.

Speaker: 5

So the murderer, the maggot got away with it.

Speaker: 0

Yeah, it was also ordered, according to the rai's times that he be paid 3000 euro as compensation, I'm assuming, for

Speaker: 5

Who cares?

Speaker: 0

Pain and suffering. I don't know as of today, even though the prosecution has stated that they were going to appeal the ruling, there is no update on the case as of today

Speaker: 5

Because they're, they're gonna get the same result and they already know that.

Speaker: 0

Yeah. And it's not like, and they would have to go through appeal and between, they need a lot of evidence because they can't, he can't be, I don't know how it works in Finland. I, I, I don't know, but at least in America that's double jeopardy. So they would have to appeal it in order to get a new trial. They can't bring up the same charges again.

Speaker: 5

No, I understand

Speaker: 0

That. It will, it I, no, I know, but at least in America that's how it goes. I'm kind of assuming in Finland that might be how it goes. It seems like their judicial system might be a little, at least similar, at least a little bit similar to ours in that regard. But there is no update as of today, as I said. I will say though, if anyone was curious about whether or not Harmon Henley stayed out of trouble since his trial, he did not, he was arrested this past March for arson,

Speaker: 5

Well, maybe they'll be able to prove that he was indeed the arsonist and he will spend lots of time in jail.

Speaker: 0

To be fair, he's been spending a lot of time in jail. But it's unfortunate that I, I, I understand why the justice system is the way it is, but at the same time it's, it's unfortunate that the justice system is the way it is because if they have all of this evidence, again, these alleged confessions, these alleged text messages, they could say they had these text messages, but without his ex-wife testifying

, which again, totally understandable why she didn't want to, I feel like almost like hearsay, you know, but

Speaker: 5

Wouldn't the text messages be like, why would,

Speaker: 0

They couldn't prove that it was, he he never said Klaus's name in the text. No,

Speaker: 5

No, no. I, I understand that these text messages, from what I understand, allude to the fact that there was a murder of someone.

Speaker: 0

Oh, absolutely. But the prosecution could not prove without a shadow of a doubt that he was talking about Klaus. He mentioned to ship, never said anything about the Viking Sally specifically.

Speaker: 5

I understand that, but he's talking about a murder.

Speaker: 0

Oh, absolutely. I get what you're saying. But the prosecution I guess did not have enough to go, this is literally what he is talking about.

Speaker: 5

The point is he is alluding to a murder that he has gotten away with. So I would think that maybe the police should do some investigation because if there's another body out there, you know what I'm doing, do you see where I'm going

Speaker: 0

With this? Yeah, I get, I mean, I get what you're saying.

Speaker: 5

If you're alluding to the fact that you murdered somebody, then I would think that the police would be watching him like a hawk.

Speaker: 0

I'm sure they, there are part of the problem though, and again, like I, I get what you're saying, but part of the problem with the whole investigation with Klaus's murder is there were, they, they really didn't have anything to go off of because

Speaker: 5

It was a senseless, vicious attack. No, I get it.

Speaker: 0

I know that, but that's, that's part of the problem. That was, that was the murder of Klaus Shekel. I hope I pronounce his name right. My mouth has a hard time with the L K L E thing.

Speaker: 5

All I know is I hope Klaus is resting in peace and knowing that someday he will get the justice that he deserves. Yes. And Bettina will get the justice that she deserves.

Speaker: 0

Yes, absolutely.

Speaker: 5

Although, I mean in one regard, luckily she doesn't remember this.

Speaker: 0

Yeah, it's, it's like a, a small consolation that she doesn't remember what happened, but I, 'cause at least she doesn't have it there, I'm sure there's still a lot of trauma, but there's not that specific trauma of like

Speaker: 5

Was she closes her eyes and sees the

Speaker: 0

Attack happening. Exactly. That's what I mean, you know, at least she's hopefully spared that.

Speaker: 5

I just hope she's, she's living a life that she finds joy in.

Speaker: 0

That's what I hope. But anyway, guys, gladly his back. We'll pop Jerry on again eventually. He likes

Speaker: 5

It. I know you all like Jerry. Yes,

Speaker: 5

But the, the recording dungeon's getting very hot. So with that, thank you. Don't forget, if you go to on your sigma.com you can get some fun mental health advocacy merch. The one that I have or that I bought is Coffee, dogs and MentalHealth because I feel that that is very on brand for me. And I got some stickers 'cause I, I'm 28 but I'm also seven likestickers. So you can get 15% off at checkout with code B o t d 15

Speaker: 5

And we hope that you enjoy the rest of your week. We will be back again next week and hopefully at least if Courtney is going to drag us down another horrific rabbit hole that justice is served,

Speaker: 0

We can only hope

Speaker: 5

We'll find one that justice is served or I may have to go off on a tangent.

Speaker: 0

Alright, see you next week guys.

Speaker: 5

Bye.

Speaker: 0

Bye guys. Thank you so much for listening to this chapter of The Book of the Dead. As always, check the source notes for resources used in this chapter. And don't forget that you could follow us on Instagram at Book of the Dead Pod or shoot us an email with a k suggestion at Book of the Dead pod@gmail.com.

Speaker: 5

We just hope that you have a wonderful rest of your week. We'll be back next week with another chapter of the Book of the Dead

Speaker: 0

And always remember to stay curious. Stay safe